

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the above-identified application. Applicant has added new claims 9-20 which are supported by the originally filed specification. In the Office Action of August 4, 2004, the Examiner made the following dispositions:

- 1.-2.) Objected to the Drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) and (5).
- 3.-4.) Objected to the Specification because of informalities and failure to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.
- 5.-7.) Rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Lopes* (U.S. Patent 5,205,013).
- 8.) Allowed Subject matter of Claims 3, 5, 6, and 8.

Applicant addresses the examiner's disposition below. Following entry there are four independent and fifteen dependent claims pending.

1.-2.) Objection to the Drawings:

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) and (5). Applicant submits herewith a replacement drawing sheet 1 to correct Figures 1 and 2. Figure 1 previously incorrectly referred to the "cap" as "18". Figure 1 has been corrected to read "45". No new matter has been added as this change is fully supported by the originally filed specification. (See page 4, lines 7-12).

Figure 2 previously incorrectly referred to the "hose inlet" as "44". Figure 2 has been corrected to read "47". No new matter has been added as this was a typographical error.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

3.-4.) Objection to the Specification:

The Examiner has objected to the specification because of informalities. The specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's requests.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

The Examiner further objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the term "projections" in original claim 3. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The specification describes an apron. See page 2, line 20; page 4 line 15 and Figures 1 and 4. One skilled in the art would know that an apron is a type of projection. Furthermore, the specification in no way limits the invention to an apron as the only type of projection available. Rather, an apron is one of many embodiments that may be used with the invention. "[P]referably the inlet is provided with an apron or pan which will assist in directing debris into the inlet." See page 2, lines 21-22.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

5.-7.) Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being Anticipated by *Lopes*:

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Lopes*. Though we do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection, in order to expedite allowance, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 3. However, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims in subsequent applications. Because claims 2, 4, and 7 depend directly or indirectly off of claim 1, claims 2, 4, and 7 are allowed because the independent claim they depend off of is allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn in regards to claims 1, 2, 4, and 7.

8.) Allowed Subject Matter of Claims 3, 5, 6, and 8:

The Examiner objected to claims 3, 5, 6, and 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 3, 5, 6, and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been canceled without traverse. Applicant has amended claims 5, 6, and 8 per the Examiner's request. New claims 9-20 depend off of independent claims 5, 6, and 8 and are allowable because the independent claims they depend off of are allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the objection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

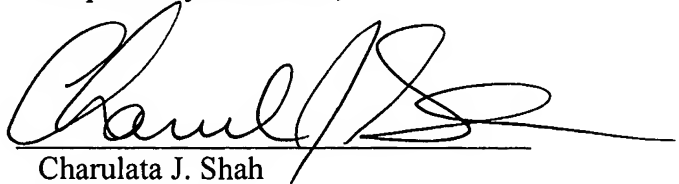
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 27, 2004

By:



Charulata J. Shah
Registration No. 47,681
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the attached drawing sheet with Figures 1-4 in which Figure 1 has been amended to refer to "45" instead of "18" and Figure 2 has been amended to refer to "47" instead of "44". A marked-up version showings changes in red is also attached.

